



CASE STUDY: WASHOE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Washoe County Scores Big With Lighting Retrofit

Located in the slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of northwestern Nevada, Washoe County is home to the cities of Reno and Lake Tahoe. Finding ways to save money and energy is important for many municipalities, and the Washoe County Public Works department did just that when it completed a lighting retrofit project.

NV Energy provides its customers with the opportunity to enjoy energy savings benefits and improved lighting quality by offering rebates to help offset the capital needed to fund a project. By reducing the out-of-pocket cost, customers can implement projects that they normally may not be able to because of budget constraints. NV Energy rebates can also significantly reduce a project's payback period.



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Project Summary

The Washoe County Public Works department conducted a lighting retrofit project at its Marriage License Bureau office building. The project replaced more than 300 T12 lamps and magnetic ballasts with T8 lamps and electronic ballasts. Electronic ballasts offer many benefits, including starting and operating with less noise than magnetic ballasts and without flickering. They also have increased efficiency in light output, consuming less energy than traditional magnetic ballasts.

T8 lighting offers a higher color rendering index (CRI) than outdated T12s, which means it has an improved light quality. In addition, the efficient equipment provides more light with each fixture, further improving the indoor lighting environment. Installing energy-saving lighting earned the county a quick return on investment, with a project payback of one year.



Energy-saving Equipment

T8s with electronic ballasts are approximately 30% more efficient than standard T12s with magnetic ballasts. The Washoe County lighting retrofit project trimmed annual energy costs by more than \$3,100. As a result of the lighting retrofit, Washoe County Public Works can expect energy savings of more than 31,000 kWh annually.



Project Results

Building Type: Municipality

Project Type: Lighting retrofit

Measures: Replace existing lamps and ballasts with energy-efficient equipment

Incentive: \$1,155

Projected Annual kWh Savings: 31,070